# Using VHF Data Link for Security Applications

Integrated CNS Technologies
Conference and Workshop

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### **NASA-GRC Objective**

- Demonstrate a concept that can be implemented and deployed in the next two years to:
- Downlink audio and video from the cabin and cockpit
- 2. Downlink Flight Recorder data and archive on the ground



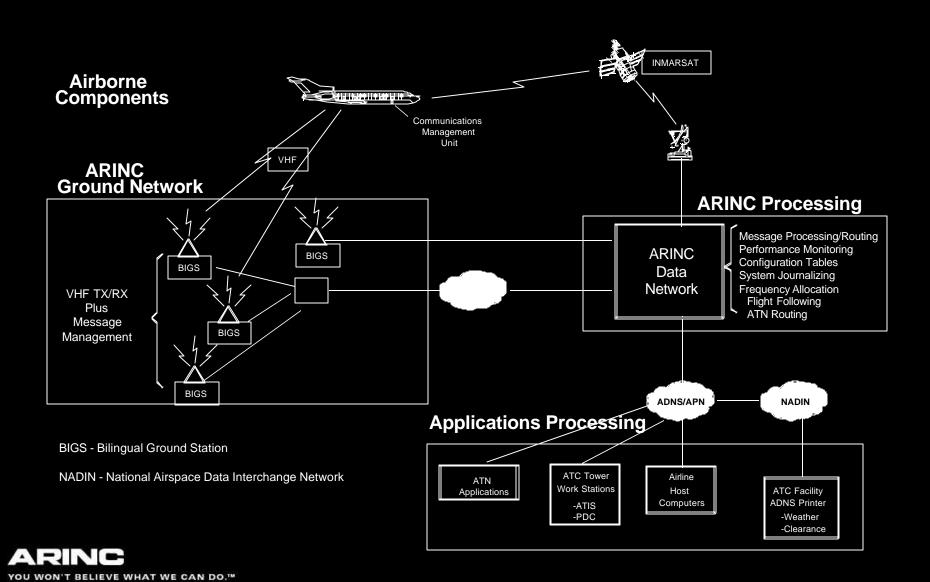
#### **Operational Concept**

- Downlink initiated by aircraft crew member, sky marshal, or ground controller in response to:
  - On-board security incident
  - In-flight emergency
- Use Dedicated Emergency VHF Data Channel.
- Downlink info displayed at ATC station, Security station, Airline Operations Center (AOC), and/or Maintenance station.
- Once initiated, parameters may be modified by command from the ground to control audio, video, or FDR source.

#### **Communications Infrastructure**

- ARINC GlobaLink VHF service provides ACARS air-toground data link communications services to 6000 aircraft worldwide.
  - 300 ground stations in North America provide continuous coverage above 18,000 feet.
  - Narrow bandwidth limits data that can be sent.
- VHF Digital Link Mode 2 (VDL Mode 2) enables the introduction of graphic weather products and file transfer services and is the enabling technology for the FAA's CPDLC program.
  - Greater bandwidth allows transmission of more information.
  - Network deployment is in progress.

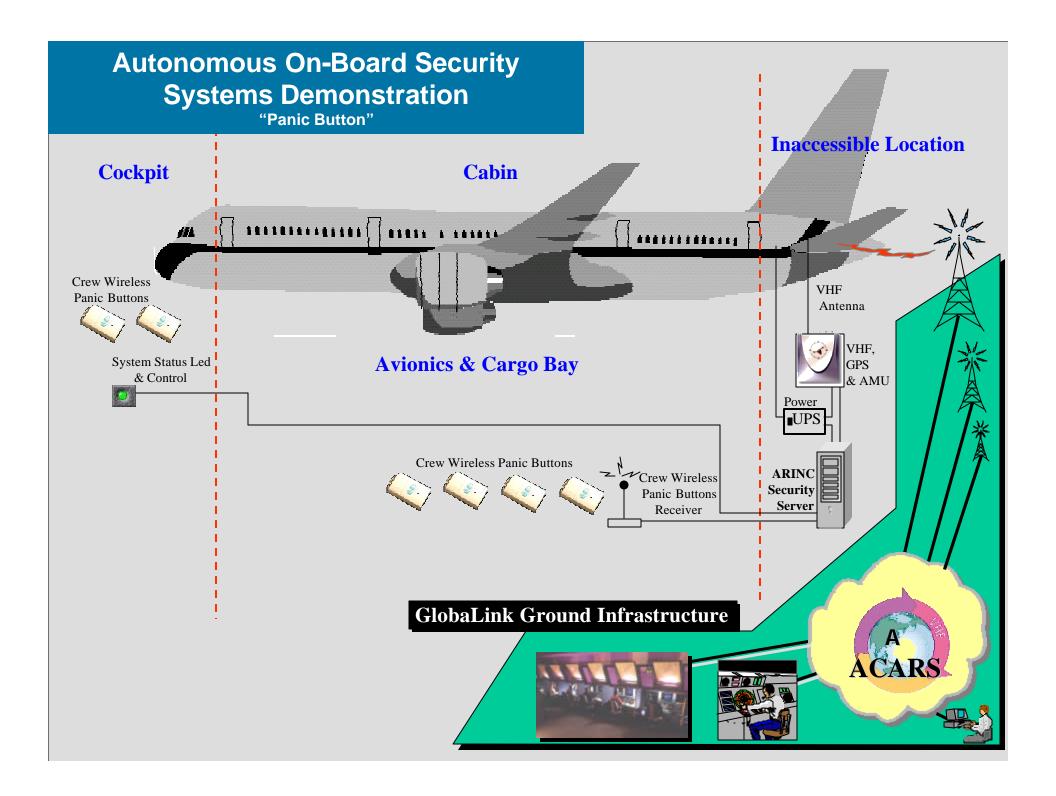
### **Data Link System Operation**



# Aircraft System Concept - Basic System

- Basic System Uses ACARS Network
  - Independent and isolated FlyTimer transceiver (with GPS) that is immune to airborne tampering.
  - Upon activation, autonomously transmits emergency message to ground using existing ARINC network.
  - Ground display alerts operator to problem and reports a/c position.
  - Once activated, system can be turned off only by ground command.
  - Suitable for use on virtually any aircraft; not just ACARS equipped.





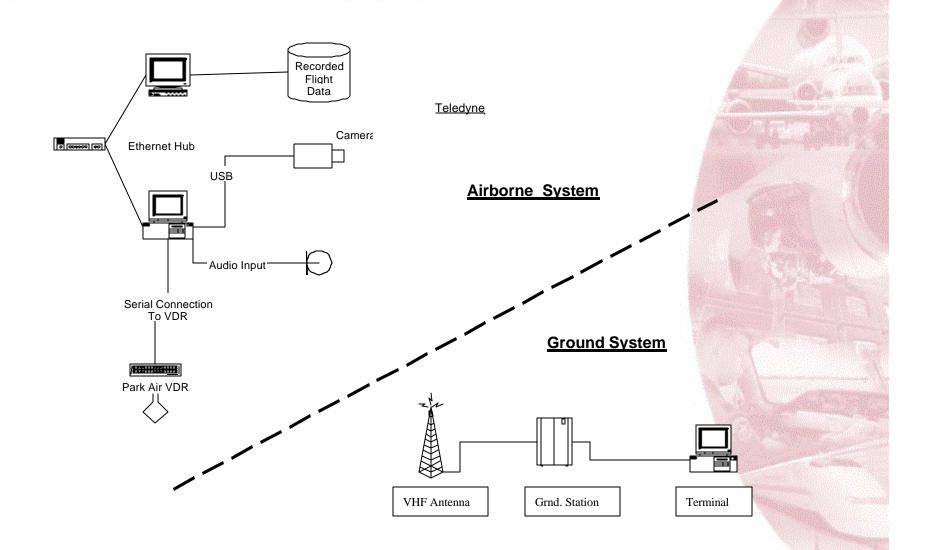
# Aircraft System Concept - Enhanced System

- Enhanced System Uses VDL Mode 2 Network
  - Video camera, microphone, and Flight Data Recorder integrated with aircraft communications system.
  - Data transferred over dedicated channel at approximately 12 Kbps to ARINC ground network.
    - Continuous transmission of audio.
    - Video image updated every minute.
    - FDR data transmitted continuously.
  - Suitable for installation on a/c equipped with VDL Mode
     2 data link.



# **VDL Mode 2 Aircraft** Communications **Multi-functional** Aircraft **Management** Conditioning Cockpit Unit (CMU) **Monitoring Display Unit System Flight Management** VHF Central **System Transceiver** Maintenance Computer VHF **Antenna**

# **VDL Mode 2 Demonstration System**



#### **Evolution / Capabilities**

# **ACARS**

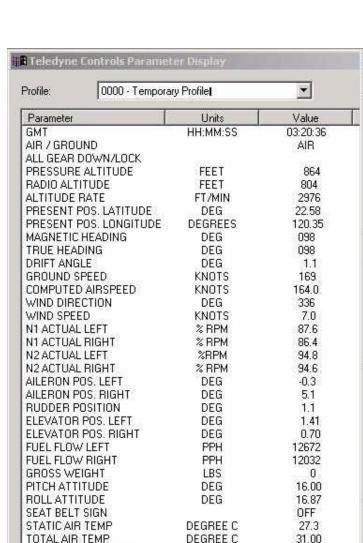
- Interface to panic button
- Position, Speed & Direction
- Ground based flight following
- Ground based messaging
- Plain text messages
- Cockpit display potential

# VDLM2

- Audio & Video download
- FDR downlink
- Interface to panic button
- Position, Speed & Direction
- Ground based flight following
- Ground based messaging
- Plain text messages
- Cockpit display potential







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#### **Implementation Plan**

- Develop System Requirements with stakeholders
- Develop Operational Procedures
- Petition for Emergency VHF Channel for Data Link
- Deploy Basic System using ACARS Network as a near-term implementation
  - Develop Specifications
  - Refine ground applications and deploy ground terminals
- Deploy Enhanced System using VDL Mode 2 Network
  - Develop airborne system Avionics, FDR, sensors
  - Upgrade ground control systems for new applications

